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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR - 0796

31 March 1960



MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, DFD
SUBJECT : CORONA 1961 Camera

1. The following is information relevant to our forthcoming discussion on the above subject.
2. The Air Force is firming up in support of a CORONA 1961 program of at least six new CORONA shots (in addition to any spillovers).
3. The lead time required to build a modified "C" prime camera is no less than 11 - 12 months.
4. Our experience with Eastman, ITEK and Fairchild tells us that only one of them should be given the whole job of designing, building and testing the camera to be used.
5. Although individuals from other organizations (e.g. [redacted]) might be used to criticize designs, for security reasons it is not desirable to bring a fourth organization in for this purpose, or to engage in any design competition.
6. All concerned agree that changes made in the "C" camera should be "minor" changes directed at greater reliability and capability. Attached is a definition by [redacted] of the limits of such changes.
7. There are four alternative courses to be followed in developing the 1961 camera towards reliability and greater capability:
 - a. Carry on with the C Camera:

I know of no support for this course of action. All feel that improvements are possible.
 - b. Adopt the ITEK "C" Design with modifications:

LMSD supports this course of action from both the standpoints of lead time requirements and quality of design. BMD supports from the lead time standpoint. [redacted] memo (attached) indicates the modifications that might be needed. If this is the wisest course our approval should be subject to a further item by item evaluation of the advantages to be gained through each change, such evaluation to be made possibly by an independent group.

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c. Give ITEK go-ahead (to avoid loss of lead time) and simultaneously ask for proposals from Eastman and Fairchild:

LMSD tells that approximately [] will be needed to finance ITEK for the first month, 15 April - 15 May. Eastman and Fairchild can prepare and submit their proposals by 22 April. A selection from among the three can be made before 15 May.

d. Give ITEK go-ahead (as in (b) above) and obtain design proposals from Eastman and Fairchild for a "back-up" camera for late 1961 and 1962:

If ITEK is given go-ahead on "C" camera all of our SAMOS (E-5) and CORONA recoverable camera eggs will be in one basket. At least [] feels that a back up camera from another source should be available against disaster contingencies, corporate or otherwise.

SIGNED

[]
Chief, Development Branch
DPD-DD/P

Attachment:
As noted

CH/DB/DPD-DD/P: []

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